

LATE HALLSTATT FINDS FROM MAGYARTELEK

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Abstract: *In recent decades several new Late Hallstatt sites were discovered in southern Transdanubia, but nearly all of these new discoveries are concentrated in the area of today's Tolna County. The former focus on Baranya County has shifted towards north. However, based on our current knowledge, these sites' chronological span does not meet the so-called Čurug-phase. As a result, sites belonging to the last phase of the Late Hallstatt Age in Transdanubia, like the cemetery in Szentlőrinc, still confine to the region lying south of the Mecsek Mountains. The fibula fragments from Magyartelek, including Certosa 13h type and Early La Tène fibulae, provide evidence for existence of a site also in Baranya that, after sufficient investigation, would be able to offer new insight into the latest stage of the Hallstatt Age, especially in the region around the Szentlőrinc cemetery.*

Keywords: *Late Hallstatt, Certosa fibulae, zoomorphic fibulae, Čurug-phase.*

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POZNOHALŠTATSKI NALAZI IZ MAĐARTELEKA

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Apstrakt: *Nekoliko poznohalštatskih lokaliteta otkriveno je u poslednjih nekoliko decenija u južnoj Transdanubiji, a većina njih je skoncentrisana u današnjem okrugu Tolna. Pređašnji fokus interesovanja, usmeren na okrug Baranja, danas je pomeren ka severu. U skladu sa današnjim stanjem istraženosti nijedan od ovih lokaliteta ne živi i u tzv. fazi Čurug. Nalazišta poslednje faze poznog halštata u Transdanubiji, poput nekropole u Szentlerincu, su izgleda ograničena na prostor koji leži južno od planine Meček. Fragmenti fibula iz Mađarteleka uključuju tip Čertoza 13h i ranolatenske fibule. To su nalazi koji pružaju dokaze o postojanju lokalitetu u Baranji koji bi, nakon obimnijih istraživanja, mogao da osvetli naj-pozniji period halštatske epohe naročito u regiji u okolini nekropole Sentlerinc.*

Keywords: pozni halštat, fibule Čertoza, zoomorfne fibule, faza Čurug.

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INTRODUCTION

The number of known Middle Iron Age sites in southern Transdanubia has never been particularly high, but in recent years this number increased significantly. After nearly 30 years since the discovery of the Beremend graves, in 1995 a few new burials came to light during the salvage excavations preceding the construction works of the M9 motorway, near Mőzs, the southern part of the town Tolna (Gaál 2001). Then, in 2008 a grave with astragal belts and *Certosa* fibulae came to light near Paks (Szabó 2012, 363–364), and in the same year a cemetery was discovered near Alsónyék (Soós 2019). Owing to the seminal papers of Erzsébet Jerem the research of the Middle Iron Age was mainly focused on the area of today's Baranya County (Jerem 1968; Jerem 1973; Jerem 1974; Jerem 1981). The Beremend and Szentlőrinc cemeteries brought attention to the fact that besides the geographical proximity this region is very close to Eastern Slavonia and the Srem region also in cultural terms. The recently discovered settlement of Szajk also supports this conclusion (Gáti 2009; Gáti 2014). However, the aforementioned newly identified sites in Tolna County have revealed that the regions north of Baranya are also as worthy of special attention as the area lying south of the Mecsek mountains.

THE FINDS FROM MAGYARTELEK

The inventory of the Janus Pannonius Museum, Pécs holds a few fibula fragments (Inv. no 564) allegedly from the surroundings of today's Magyartelek, Baranya County, some 11km to the south from the Szentlőrinc cemetery. Unfortunately, no further information about the finds' exact provenance is known. It seems to be certain, however, that the finds were obtained by the former Municipal Museum of Pécs sometime in the first half of the 20th century. In 1979 the museum published the archaeological overview of the county. In this monograph Éva F. Petres, while describing the Late Iron Age of the region, briefly mentioned these fibula fragments, however, without any depiction of the items (Petres 1979, 169–170). Also, somewhat misleadingly she associated the Early La Tène fibula from Magyartelek with the brooches among the stray finds from Beremend (Petres 1979, 170).

1. Bronze fibula of *Certosa*-13h type. The spring is missing. The cross-section of the bow is rather flat, at the joining of the spring it is rectangular. The bow is decorated near its end toward the spring with now hardly visible herringbone pattern. Near the foot, the bow is strongly bent backward. There is a knob with relatively long neck sitting on the foot. The catch-plate is rectangular, it holds the now missing pin on the right side. L: 3,8cm, W: 0,45cm (Fig. 1/1, 2/1).
2. Bronze fibula. Its spring is intact only on the right side (two coils). On the left side it is broken off. The pin is missing. The bow has a rhombic section, it is decorated with herringbone pattern. The foot bends back to the bow and has a rectangular catch-plate. The end of the foot slightly thickens and then narrows. The pin is missing. L: 4,4cm, W: 0,6cm (Fig. 1/2, 2/2).
3. Fragment of a fibula's spring and pin. Based on its shape and dimensions it seems very likely that the fragment might have belonged to the above-mentioned fibula. D: 0,9cm (Fig. 1/3).
4. Bow fragment of a bronze fibula. Presumably it can be assigned to the *Certosa*-13 type. Its spring is missing, but the shape of the junction suggests that the fibula had a crossbow-like shape. The section of the bow is flat, slightly concave, it broke between its widest point and the foot. The bow near the spiral is decorated with dense herringbone pattern. L: 5,3cm, W: 0,6cm (Fig. 1/4).
5. Pin and spring fragment of a bronze fibula. The possibility cannot be ruled out that it might have belonged to one of the crossbow *Certosa* fibulae. L: 2,9cm (Inv. no. 564)(Fig. 1/5).
6. Fragment of a bronze crossbow fibula. Fragment of the crossbow construction. Strongly bent. L: 2,1cm (Fig. 1/6).

CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

Being the hitherto largest graveyard in the region, the Szentlőrinc cemetery has been playing a crucial role in embedding the southern part of Transdanubia into the relative chronological frameworks of the late Hallstatt Age ever since its discovery. This fact was put forward by different authors. Based on the material and the horizontal stratigraphy of the cemetery three main phases of the graves might be distinguished (Jerem 1968, 194; Teržan 1976, sl. 51). The first horizon of the graveyard is characterized chiefly by *Certosa* fibulae of type 13 according to B. Teržan's seminal classification and the so-called East-Alpine animal-headed fibulae. In terms of Hermann Parzinger's chronological framework the graves of this phase belong to Horizon 9 (Parzinger 1988, 107). The leading types of the second phase are *Certosa* fibulae of the 13h variant and

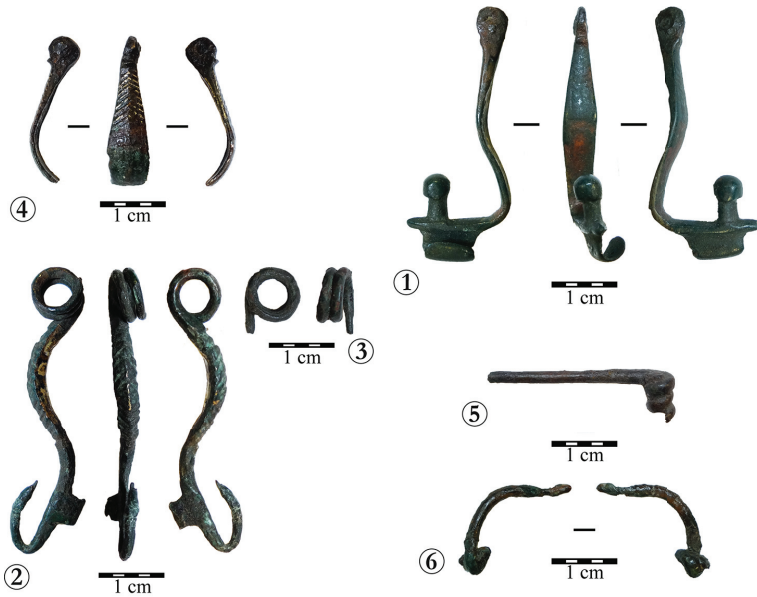


Figure 1. The fibula fragments from Magyartelek.

crossbow fibulae made of iron (Parzinger 1988, 107). In addition, there are also three graves among the burials in the cemetery which yielded instances of the so-called *Vogelkopffibel*. As the illuminating map of the graveyard made by B. Teržan clearly shows these graves are situated in the southeastern corner of the burial ground, hence it is very likely that the latest burials concentrate in this part of the cemetery (Jerem 1968, 178; Teržan 1976, sl. 51; Parzinger 1988, 107). Both of the latter phases belong to Horizon 10 in H. Parzinger's framework (Parzinger 1988, 107).

The so-called *Vogelkopffibel* found among the grave goods of Graves 40, 63, and 65 are characteristic types of the pre-Duchov horizon, and can be dated from the beginning to the third quarter of the 4th century BC (Popović 1996, 106; Rustoiu 2012, 358–359), hence they represent the earliest evidence for the commencing influence of the La Tène style on the clothing customs of the communities living in southern Transdanubia and the presumable contacts between the communities in the southwestern part of the Carpathian Basin and the already latinized populations in the regions lying to the north (Dizdar 2015, 55). Interestingly, while the number of sites with burial grounds belonging to either Horizon 8 or 9 as already mentioned has grown significantly in recent years in southern Transdanubia, Szentlőrinc still remains the one single cemetery that has burials dated to the last phase of the so-called South Pannonian Late Hallstatt group¹ in the

1 or Osijek group according to the terminology put forward by M. Dizdar (Dizdar 2015).

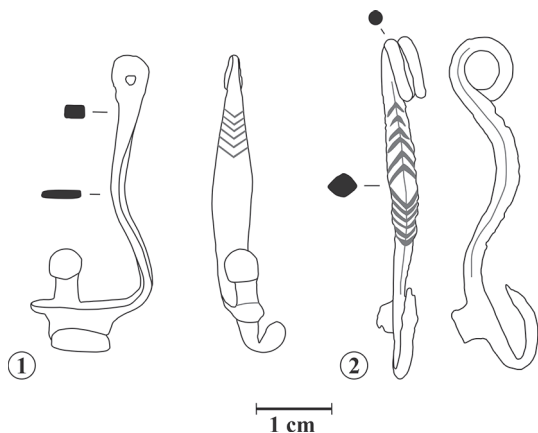


Figure 2. Drawing of the two relatively well-preserved fibulae from Magyartelek.

region between the Kapos and Drava rivers. The funerary record of this period which in accordance with the relative chronological framework of D. Božič is often referred to as the Čurug-phase, however, is at least to some extent more robust in the regions lying to the south of the Drava river (Božič 1981, 315). Noteworthy examples are the graves of the Donja Dolina cemetery assigned to the 3b phase in terms of B. Čović' relative chronological framework (Čović 1987, 265), and the grave found near Velika (Majnarić-Pandžić 1995). The assemblages recovered from these graves show the proliferation of attire sets in line with the Early La Tène fashion combined with local elements in the 4th century BC (Majnarić-Pandžić 1995, 35).

The appearance of Early La Tène forms in the latest stage of the Hallstatt Age in southern Transdanubia is well-documented in the case of the recently discovered Szajk settlement. This is proven by one example of the fibulae decorated with stylised bird protome originating from the settlement. Furthermore, according to the relative chronological framework of the site outlined by Csilla Gáti, in the second phase of this settlement, while the local forms still predominate, the ceramic material vessels of Early La Tène style emerge (Gáti 2014, 123–124).

Apparently, while in the case of the earlier phases of the South Pannonian Late Hallstatt group in south Transdanubia our attention is gradually being drawn towards the regions lying north of the Mecsek Mountains, sites with material from the latest phase of the Late Hallstatt Age seem to confine to the southern part of Baranya County. The finds from Magyartelek do not pose an exception to the pattern.

CERTOSA FIBULAE

There are two items among the fragments from Magyartelek that can easily be assigned to the *Certosa* 13 type of B. Teržan's classification. Moreover, there can be little doubt that at least one of them (Fig. 1/1) is a specimen of the 13h variant, although, one cannot rule out the possibility that indeed both of them can be

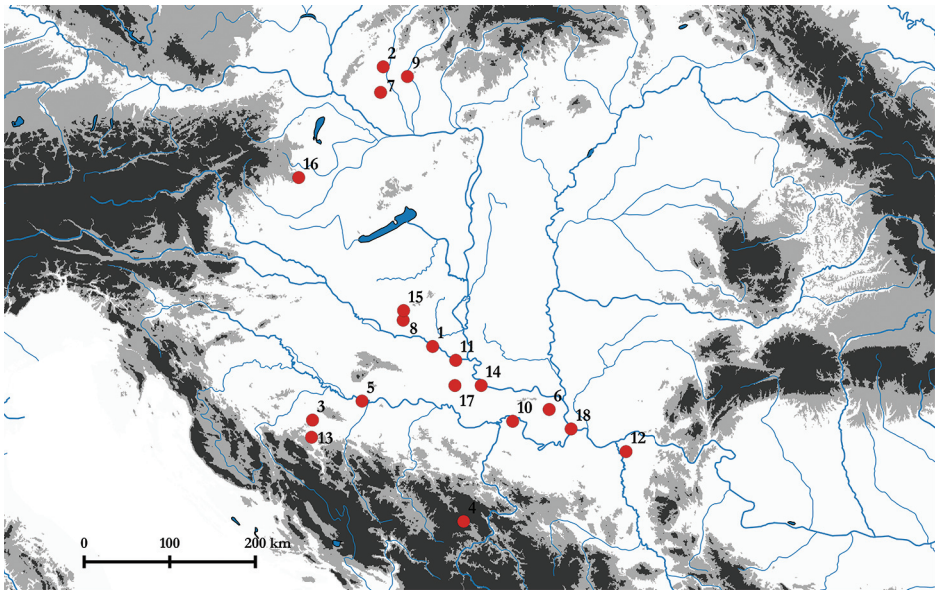


Figure 3. The distribution of *Certosa* 13h type fibulae (after Dizdar 2015, Map 1, with contributions).*

assigned to the same variant. This is supported by the fact that the specimens share a number of characteristic features regarding shape and decoration of the bow. It bears significance that in all likelihood this is the only type among the *Certosa* fibulae whose emergence might be localised east of today's Slovenia (Teržan 1976, 363; Dizdar 2015, 47). Recently, Marko Dizdar published a fine and thorough assessment of these fibulae (Fig. 3). According to him, these fibulae appeared in the latest third of the 5th century BC and remained fashionable elements of attire in the first quarter of the next century (Dizdar 2015, 49).

- * 1. Belišće. Stray find. Well-preserved. L: 4.8 cm. Dizdar 2015.
 2. Bučany. Grave good [Grave 14]. Well-preserved. L: 4.2 cm. Bujna – Romsauer 1983, Taf. 2,4.
 3. Čarakovo. Grave good [Grave 3]. The spring and pin are missing. L: 4.2 cm. Čović 1956, Tab. 1,11.
 4. Čavarine. Grave good [Tumulus 4]. The spring and the pin are missing. L: 4.7 cm. Fiala 1893, Fig. 45.
 5. Donja dolina. Settlement find. The spring and pin are missing. L: 5.4 cm. Truhelka 1904, Taf. 38,22.
 Donja dolina. Grave good [M. Petrović (jr.) 5]. Well-preserved, with loops on the spring. L: 4.5 cm. Truhelka 1904, Taf. 43,3.
 Donja dolina. Grave good [M. Petrović (jr.) 13]. The spring and pin are missing. L: 6.0 cm. Truhelka 1904, Taf. 44,20.
 Donja dolina. Grave good [M. Petrović (jr.) 13]. The spring and pin are missing. L: 4.0 cm. Truhelka 1904, Taf. 44,21.
 Donja dolina. Grave good [N. Sokić I. 4]. Well-preserved, with extra coil and loops on the spring. L: 5.5 cm. Truhelka 1904. Taf. 59,9.
 Donja dolina. Grave good [N. Sokić I. 4]. Well-preserved, with extra coil and loops on the spring. L: 5.5 cm. Truhelka 1904. Taf. 59,15.
 Donja dolina. Stray find. Well preserved. L:4.9 cm. Truhelka 1904, 81,7.

Both fibulae bear incised herringbone-pattern decoration on their bows close to the spring. There are several examples of this type of fibulae in the relatively closely situated Szentlőrinc cemetery, thus it is not surprising that some are decorated with similar pattern (Jerem 1968, Fig. 19, 3/1; Jerem 1968, Fig. 24, 34/5). Similar decoration can be seen on two fibulae found in the vicinity of Požarevac (Vasić 1999, Taf. 50, 858A–858B) and on one example

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- Donja dolina. Stray find. Well preserved, with extra coil and loops with pendants attached to them on the spring. L: 7.2 cm. Truhelka 1904, 81,8.
6. Indjija. Grave good. In pieces. L: 4.0 cm. Vasić 1999, Taf. 50,851.
 7. Košúty. Stray find. The spring and pin are missing. L: 5.0 cm. Novotná 2001, Taf. 22,268.
 8. Magyartelek.
 9. Nitra-Mlynárce. Grave good. Used as a belt hook. Spring and pin are missing. L: 6.4 cm. Bujna 2019, Pl. 1,3.
 10. Nočaj. Stray find. The spring and pin are missing. L: 4.9 cm. Vasić 1999, Taf. 50,854.
 11. Osijek. Grave good [Grave 51]. The spring and pin are missing. L: 3.5 cm. Spajić 1962, Tab. 26,45.
Osijek. Grave good [Grave 51]. The spring and pin are missing. L: 3.5 cm. Spajić 1962, Tab. 26,46.
 12. Požarevac. Stray find. The spring and pin are missing. L: 5.0 cm. Vasić 1999, Taf. 50,855.
Požarevac. Stray find. The spring and pin are missing. L: 4.6 cm. Vasić 1999, Taf. 50,858A.
 13. Sanski most. Grave good [Grave 17]. Well-preserved. L: 5.0 cm. Fiala 1899, Fig. 25.
Sanski most. Grave good [Grave 50]. Well-preserved, with threefold spring and loops with pendants attached to them. L: 6.4 cm. Fiala 1899, Fig. 52.
Sanski most. Grave good [Grave 121]. Well-preserved. L: 3.8 cm. Fiala 1899, Fig. 132.
Sanski most. Grave good [Grave 121]. Well-preserved, with twofold spring and loops with pendants attached to them. L: 6.4 cm. Teržan 1976, Fig. 50,2.
Sanski most. Grave good [Grave 121]. Well-preserved, with twofold spring and loops with pendants attached to them. L: 4.2 cm. Teržan 1976, Fig. 50,3.
 14. Sotin. Stray find. Fragment of the bow and foot. L: Ilkić 1999, Tab. 19,9.
Sotin. Stray find. Fragment of the bow and foot. L: Ilkić 1999, Tab. 19,10.
 15. Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 3]. Well-preserved. L: 4.4 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 19,3/1.
Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 15]. Well-preserved, the pin is partially missing. L: 4.0 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 21,15/2.
Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 21-22]. Well-preserved, with extra coil and loops on the spring. L: 5.0 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 22,21-22/1.
Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 24]. The spring construction is in fragments. L: 4.3 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 22,24/1.
Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 27]. Well-preserved, the pin is partially missing. L: 4.3 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 23,27/1.
Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 34]. Well-preserved, the spring construction is in fragments, the pin is missing. L: 4.2 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 24,34/3.
Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 34]. Well-preserved, the spring construction is in fragments, the pin is missing. L: 4.2 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 24,34/4.
Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 34]. Broken, the spring construction is in fragments, the pin is missing. L: 4.0 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 24,34/5.
Szentlőrinc. Grave good [Grave 44]. Threefold spring with loops, the foot is missing. L: 3.7 cm. Jerem 1968, Fig. 26,44/3.
 16. Velem. Stray find. Without spring and pin. L: 5.6 cm. Miske 1907, Taf. 39,29.
Velem. Stray find. Well-preserved. L: 4.4 cm. Guillaumet 1987, Fig. 2,c.
 17. Vinkovci-Slatine. Stray find. Without spring and pin. L: 5.4 cm. Dizdar 2019, Fig. 2,1.
 18. Zemun. Stray find. Well-preserved, the pin is missing. L: 4.5 cm. Vasić 1999, Taf. 51,861.

found near Košúty in today's Slovakia (Novotná 2001, Taf. 22, 268). Of course, there are fibulae of this variant which were decorated in a somewhat different manner. The bow of the brooch found near Belišće shows incised parallel lines transversal to the longitudinal axis of the fibula (Dizdar 2015, Fig. 3). However, contrary to the specimens from Magyartelek, this fibula also bears incised lines running longitudinally on its bow. In terms of decoration, a comparable fibula was found in Grave 3 of the Čarakovo cemetery (Čović 1956, Tab. 1/11).

The material recovered during the late 19th century excavations of the cemetery and settlement at Donja Dolina, one of the most significant late prehistoric sites along the Sava river, revealed that fibulae of the type under discussion were popular elements of attire at this site, too (Truhelka, Taf. 38/22; Taf. 43/3; Taf. 44/20–21; Taf. 81/7–8). The closed assemblages from the cemetery were instrumental in determining the chronological span of these fibulae's use (Dizdar 2015, 46–49). Among the specimens that appeared in Ćiro Truhelka's publication there is one example whose bow is decorated in a style similar to that visible in the case of the Belišće example (Truhelka 1904, Taf. 38/22).

This site offers a bit of insight into how popular those fibulae, whose spring was constructed to be able to bear pendants, might have been in the Sava valley (Truhelka 1904, Taf. 43/3; Taf. 59/9, 15; Taf. 8/8). Similar fibulae are known from Sanski Most, too (Fiala 1899, Abb. 52). M. Dizdar, while describing the specimen from Belišće, argued that such elaborated spring constructions with loops might be indicative of pendants once attached to the fibulae (Dizdar 2015, 47). Thus presumably one fibula from the Szentlőrinc cemetery might also have had pendants of some kind attached to the spring construction (Jerem 1968, Fig. 22, 21–22/1; Jerem 1968, Fig. 26, 44/3). As a result, fibulae with such spring construction can be reckoned with in the southern part of Transdanubia. Unfortunately, neither the fibula fragment (Fig. 1/1) nor the fragment of a crossbow fibula's spring construction from Magyartelek can help us determining whether fibulae with either complex springs or pendants might be reckoned with in the case of this site.

VOGELKOPFFIBEL

As already stated, Early La Tène style fibulae give the first evidence for the appearance of La Tène influences on the costume of the communities of the latest stage of the Late Hallstatt Age in southern Transdanubia. These are often referred to as Early La Tène *Vogelkopffibel*, in other words fibulae decorated with stylised bird protome or zoomorphic fibulae. Such fibulae are in geographical terms extremely wide-spread, their instances occur from Eastern France to the northern Balkans (Binding 1993, 32; Bagley et al. 2010, 84). The excavations of the Szentlőrinc graveyard brought to light four specimens which

are in terms of overall shape and the construction of the spring close analogies of the fibula from Magyartelek (Fig. 1/2). However, it should be pointed out that neither the decoration seen on the bow nor the shape of the foot's end of the specimen from Magyartelek has close analogies in the material from the Szentlőrinc cemetery.

The symmetrically placed herringbone-decoration comprising of relatively deep grooves is unparalleled in southern Transdanubia and in the Northwest Balkans. However, the 'simple' herringbone pattern itself is not without example in these regions, as such decoration can be seen on the bow of the Early La Tène fibula from Bilač (Dizdar and Potrebić 2002, Tab. 7/3). The bows of some of the fibulae found near Velika are decorated with deep grooves, but this particular pattern cannot be observed (Majnarić-Pandžić 1995, Fig. 1). Also, the foot of these fibulae from the area under discussion take various forms. Among these, the fibula from Magyartelek has a simple shape comparable with that of one of the fibulae from Velika (Majnarić-Pandžić 1995, Fig. 1, 2), Donja Dolina (Truhelka 1904, Fig. 87) or that of the brooches from Tatabánya (Hunyady 1942, Taf. 19/3) or Rackendorf (Bagley et al. 2010, Fig. 14/4), just to name a few examples. Still, the foot of the specimen under discussion is considerably shorter.

In general, specimens of the Early La Tène fibulae made of bronze wire and decorated with stylised bird protome can only be dated within relatively broad terms (Binding 1993, 45–69). In the case of the examples recovered from the Szentlőrinc cemetery, Petar Popović argues that they belong to the so-called pre-Duchov horizon and can be dated to the LT B1 phase, or to the first half and middle of the 4th century BC (Popović 1996, 106). Recently, in his paper Aurel Rustoiu agreed with this chronological framework (Rustoiu 2012, 358–359). As a result, the fibula from Magyartelek might also be dated to the first half of the 4th century BC.

CONCLUSIONS

Unfortunately, as long as the exact provenance of these fibula fragments remains unclear, the strongest statement we can have as a conclusion is that somewhere near Magyartelek there is a site which has a horizon belonging to the so-called Čurug-phase (Božič 1981, 315–316). Thus, it is reasonable to assume that this settlement or cemetery was in use during the latest phase of the Szentlőrinc cemetery, located at some 11km distance from Magyartelek. However, finding the exact location of the site and determining its character would be immensely important, given the fact that currently there is only two well-documented sites (Szajk and Szentlőrinc) in southern Transdanubia providing information about the latest phase of the Late Hallstatt Age of the region.

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LATE HALLSTATT FINDS FROM MAGYARTELEK

Summary

Sometime in the first half of the 20th century, the former Municipal Museum of Pécs obtained a few fibula fragments found in the vicinity of Magyartelek according to the inventory book. Except for a brief mention of the finds in a monograph published in Hungarian no attention has been paid to these finds whose exact provenance is unfortunately unknown, they provide valuable information that near Magyartelek a Late Hallstatt site might be reckoned with. Although it is hardly possible to endeavour to give estimations about the exact chronological span of this site, based on the *Certososa* 13h type fibula and the so-called *Vogelkopffibel*, this site had a horizon that might be assigned to the latest phase of the South Pannonian Late Hallstatt group, the so-called Čurug-phase. In other words there is a site in some 11 km distance from the cemetery of Szentlőrinc which is parallel with the graveyard at least during the latter's latest phase. Determining whether the finds came from a cemetery or a settlement as well as locating the site is a task for future research.

